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A Combined face-guard  
and tongue-depressor.





[Reprinted from THE MEDICAL NEWS, June 8, 1895.]

**A COMBINED FACE-GUARD AND TONGUE-DEPRESSOR.**

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EVERY physician who has to deal with a diphtheric patient tries to prevent the expectoration of particles of membrane or sputum into his face; this he usually accomplishes by turning away his head, but, by doing so, he is still not entirely safe.

The use of a piece of glass for this purpose as a protector, as suggested by Dr. James Ely Talley (MEDICAL NEWS, January 12, 1895), is not a new idea. As adjusted by Dr. J. Madison Taylor, a second person is required to hold the glass, and this may greatly interfere with the movements of the physician or with the rays of light, and thus prove very inconvenient. If the glass be held in the physician's hand—both his hands are occupied, as with one he fixes the tongue-depressor. Dr. Talley attaches the glass to the band of an ordinary head-mirror, thus freeing one hand and facilitating the work. This is a very good plan, as the guard is always in position, because it moves with the head in the desired direction, and the hands are thus kept free.

So long as we have nothing better we do not look into the disadvantages of a certain device, and we are satisfied with the advantages. The disadvantages of a face-guard attached to the band of a head-mirror are as follows:

1. It may be impossible to use the head-mirror under certain circumstances, and when removing the glass

guard and holding the mirror to the band one meets again with the inconvenience of a second person holding the glass guard; if such an assistant is not present, the operator's hands are not both free.

2. The vapor covering the glass from the patient's breath spoils the clearness of the picture of the fauces.

3. The room may be warm, and if one sweats, no matter how light the protector, one feels as if a load were about the head; one is prevented from wiping the sweat from the face or from adjusting one's spectacles, etc.

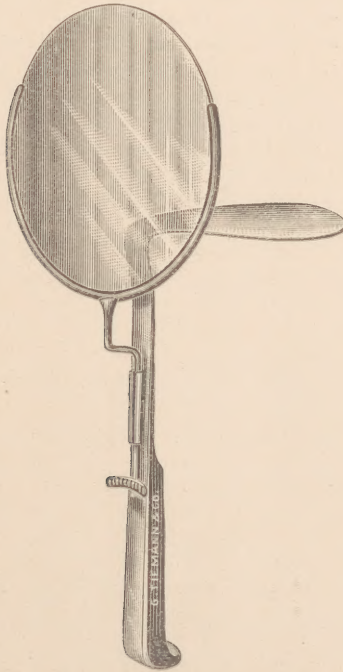
4. Sometimes one must wear the protector for a long time, or be bothered by taking it off and refixing it again.

A "combined face-guard," or a "face-protecting tongue-depressor," to be described, will in most cases prove of utility by obviating the disadvantages of the ordinary face-guard. It is, I believe, simple, convenient, and useful. It consists of six pieces: a round glass, a frame, a sliding-rod, a thumb-piece, an open clamp or spring-groove, and a tongue-depressor.

The glass is round, of moderate thickness, so that it will not break easily or make the instrument too heavy; it is five inches in diameter, thus covering the entire circumference of the patient's mouth and not allowing any expectoration to strike the physician's face. The frame is made of metal, half-moon-like round, grooved in the inside, into which the glass is imbedded, thus strengthening the glass; should the glass break a new sheet can be slipped into the frame and cannot fall out. The sliding-rod, which is attached to the lower edge of the frame, is bent so as to stand out at least half or nearly three-quarters of an inch from the spatula, thus preventing it from striking the spatula when making lateral movements. The open clamp or spring-groove is attached to the tongue-depressor; it hugs the sliding-rod and allows it to slide and stay in any position. The thumb-piece is attached to the lower end of the sliding-



rod which is in the spring-groove; it rotates the glass, and slides it up and down; it is taken apart by sliding the thumb-piece through the clamp. The tongue-depressor is made of solid metal; the handle is hollow, thus reducing the weight of the instrument.



Practically, this instrument consists of two parts: the glass, frame, sliding-rod, and thumb-piece forming one part; the tongue-depressor and spring-groove making the other part. When putting it together one merely slips the rod where the thumb-piece is into the groove,

slides it down, and the instrument is ready for use. Fixing the tongue-depressor on the patient's tongue, one keeps the thumb on the thumb-piece, and the other hand is free for atomizing, cauterizing, or for other purposes. In moving one's head up and down, or from side to side, one presses the thumb-piece with the thumb in the desired direction, thus regulating the position of the guard, while not disturbing at the same time the position of the depressor or interfering with the work to be done. There are no complicated parts and no screws; it can be easily put together or taken apart. As it can be boiled, it can be easily rendered aseptic. Messrs. Tiemann & Co., of New York, are the makers, and the instrument is constructed in the best possible way.

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